

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A blade set for a hair clipper, the hair clipper including a drive mechanism having a drive finger, the blade set comprising:

- a fixed lower blade including a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along, an upper surface, and a lower surface; and

- a movable upper blade including

- a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along,

- a rearward edge,

- an upper surface including a pair of upper reinforcing protrusions extending upwardly from the upper surface,

- a generally planar lower surface extending rearward of the forward edge, the lower surface being supported by the upper surface of the fixed blade, the lower surface defining a pair of lower reinforcing rims co-planar with the lower surface and including a pair of recessed portions, each recessed portion extending outwardly from a respective one of the lower reinforcing rims and being recessed from the lower surface,

- a drive notch sized to receive the drive finger for movement of the movable blade in relation to the fixed blade during operation of the hair clipper, the drive notch including two substantially parallel walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion being disposed adjacent a respective one of the substantially parallel walls and each lower reinforcing rim forming a portion of a respective one of the substantially parallel walls, and

- a pair of lead-in walls extending between the upper and lower surface of the movable blade, each lead-in wall extending outwardly and rearwardly from a respective one of the substantially parallel walls to the rearward edge, each upper reinforcing protrusion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of

the substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly.

22. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein the movable upper blade is constructed of ceramic.

23. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein each upper reinforcing protrusion is configured to direct the drive finger toward the drive notch when the drive finger is being drivingly connected to the movable blade.

24. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein each recessed portion extends outwardly from the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims to a respective one of a pair of sideward edges of the movable blade.

25. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein the lower surface includes first, second, and third portions disposed adjacent a respective one of the recessed portions and co-planar with the lower surface, wherein the first portion extends forwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions, wherein the second portion extends inwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions, wherein the third portion extends rearwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions.

26. (New) A blade set according to claim 25, wherein the second portion at least partially defines the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims from which the respective one of the recessed portions extends outwardly.

27. (New) A blade set according to claim 25, wherein the third portion at least partially defines the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims from which the respective one of the recessed portions extends outwardly.

28. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein the lower surface of the movable blade includes at least one wear surface disposed proximate the rearward edge and extending downwardly

and outwardly from the lower surface, wherein the at least one wear surface directly engages the upper surface of the lower blade and spaces at least a portion of the lower surface of the movable blade from the upper surface of the fixed blade.

29. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein each lead-in wall is configured to direct the drive finger toward the drive notch when the drive finger is being drivingly connected to the movable blade.

30. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 and further comprising a bias member positionable against the upper surface of the movable blade to bias the movable blade against the fixed blade, wherein the movable blade includes a groove extending substantially parallel to the forward edge of the movable blade, and wherein the bias member engages the groove when positioned against the upper surface of the movable blade.

31. (New) A blade set according to claim 30 wherein the groove includes chamfered ends, and wherein the chamfered ends direct the bias member toward the groove during assembly of the blade set.

32. (New) A blade set according to claim 21 wherein each of the substantially parallel walls extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the forward edge of the movable blade.

33. (New) A blade set for a hair clipper, the hair clipper including a drive mechanism having a drive finger, the blade set comprising:

- a bias member;

- a fixed lower blade including a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along, an upper surface, and a lower surface; and

- a movable upper blade including

- a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along,

- a rearward edge,

an upper surface including a pair of upper reinforcing protrusions extending upwardly from the upper surface,

a generally planar lower surface extending rearward of the forward edge, the lower surface being supported by the upper surface of the fixed blade, the lower surface defining a pair of lower reinforcing rims co-planar with the lower surface and including a pair of recessed portions, each recessed portion extending outwardly from a respective one of the lower reinforcing rims and being recessed from the lower surface,

a drive notch sized to receive the drive finger for movement of the movable blade in relation to the fixed blade during operation of the hair clipper, the drive notch including two substantially parallel walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion being disposed adjacent a respective one of the substantially parallel walls and each lower reinforcing rim forming a portion of a respective one of the substantially parallel walls,

a pair of lead-in walls extending between the upper and lower surface of the movable blade, each lead-in wall extending outwardly and rearwardly from a respective one of the substantially parallel walls to the rearward edge, each upper reinforcing protrusion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of the substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly, and

a groove extending substantially parallel to the forward edge of the movable blade and including chamfered ends, the bias member engaging the groove to bias the movable blade against the fixed blade when the bias member is positioned against the upper surface of the movable blade, the chamfered ends being configured to direct the bias member toward the groove during assembly of the blade set.

34. (New) A blade set according to claim 33 wherein the movable upper blade is constructed of ceramic.

35. (New) An upper blade for a blade set used with a hair clipper, the upper blade comprising:
a body portion;

a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along,

a rearward edge,

an upper surface including a pair of upper reinforcing protrusions extending upwardly from the upper surface,

a generally planar lower surface extending rearward of the forward edge, the lower surface defining a pair of lower reinforcing rims co-planar with the lower surface and including a pair of recessed portions, each recessed portion extending outwardly from a respective one of the lower reinforcing rims and being recessed from the lower surface,

a drive notch sized including two substantially parallel walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces, each upper reinforcing protrusion being disposed adjacent a respective one of the substantially parallel walls and each lower reinforcing rim forming a portion of a respective one of the substantially parallel walls, and

a pair of lead-in walls extending between the upper and lower surface, each lead-in wall extending outwardly and rearwardly from a respective one of the substantially parallel walls to the rearward edge, each upper reinforcing protrusion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of the substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly.

36. (New) An upper blade according to claim 35 wherein the body portion is constructed of ceramic.

37. (New) An upper blade according to claim 35 wherein each recessed portion extends outwardly from the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims to a respective one of a pair of sideward edges of the movable blade.

38. (New) An upper blade according to claim 35 wherein the lower surface includes at least one wear surface disposed proximate the rearward edge and extending downwardly and outwardly from the lower surface.

39. (New) An upper blade according to claim 35 wherein the upper surface includes a groove extending substantially parallel to the forward edge.

40. (New) An upper blade according to claim 35 wherein each of the substantially parallel walls extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the forward edge.